



SEPTEMBER 2022

Director's Cut
Eden Hendrick, Executive Director



WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

A QUICK AND INFORMATIVE SNAPSHOT OF WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE SC DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE! WE WELCOME ALL STORY IDEAS, PHOTOS, AND ANY INFORMATION YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE AGENCY. EMAIL: publicinformation@djj.sc.gov

As many of you know, SCDJJ has entered a voluntary settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) which took effect in April of this year. Part of that agreement requires DOJ and monitors to make periodic visits to see what is being improved and how much work is left to do. A monitor team and the DOJ made their first visit to BRRC from September 7-9, and I wanted to give you a summary of their findings.

There were many positive comments about some of our staff and leadership's goals. However, the challenges they saw at BRRC were numerous. The foundation for improvement from their perspective starts with three things: Communication, Teamwork and Safety.

Communicating with each other and sharing important information is critical to our success as an agency but we consistently see where it simply does not happen. We must change our expectations around sharing critical information and improve methods to do so. We are working now to think through ways to improve communication overall and welcome your suggestions.

Additionally, we must improve teamwork to achieve the goals we have for the young people we serve – not just here at BRRC but also youth at our evaluation centers, camps, and communities. Our goal as an agency is to rehabilitate the youth we serve so they can make a successful transition back to society as productive citizens. I see teamwork in many areas of this agency every day, but we can and must improve our togetherness as a team and not work in silos anymore.

Finally, safety was another concern of the monitoring team and one I wholeheartedly agree with. Safety of staff and the safety of our youth is of the utmost importance if we are to accomplish the mission of SCDJJ. I want to assure all of you that steps and processes are being evaluated and implemented daily to help do a better job of keeping staff and youth in a safe and secure environment at all facilities.

Often, because of lack of good communication our staff are not aware of what steps are being taken to improve safety. Safety to me is the biggest driver of the change we must make.

Here's your chance: Do you have suggestions for improved communication, teamwork, and safety? Send us your thoughts to the email address below. I find our staff often have the best ideas and I will read all of them. Thank you for all you do for SCDJJ!

Send feedback to: publicinformation@djj.sc.gov



Mayor's Youth Initiative (MYI) Resource Information Event

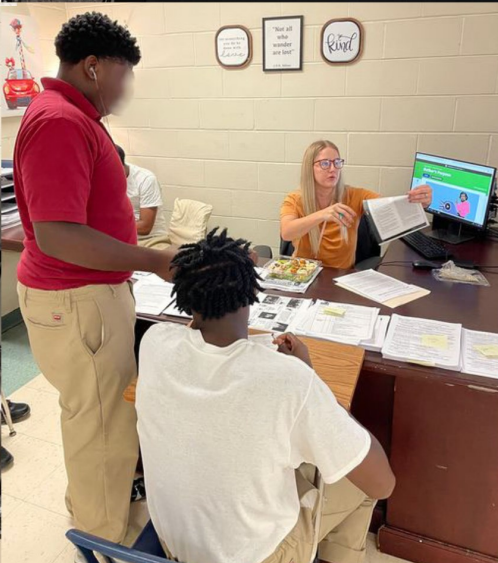
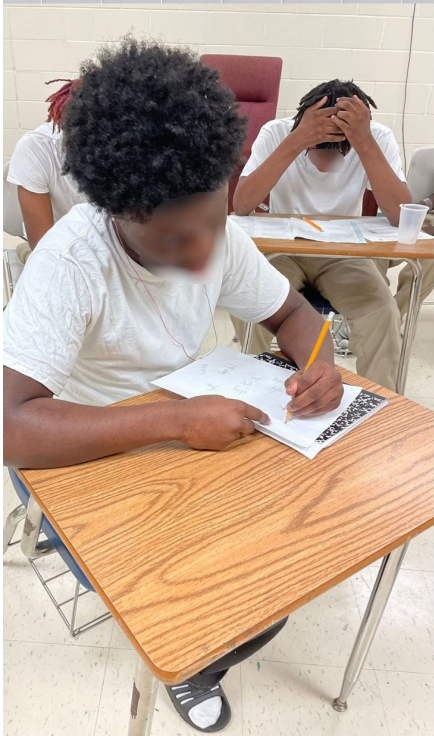
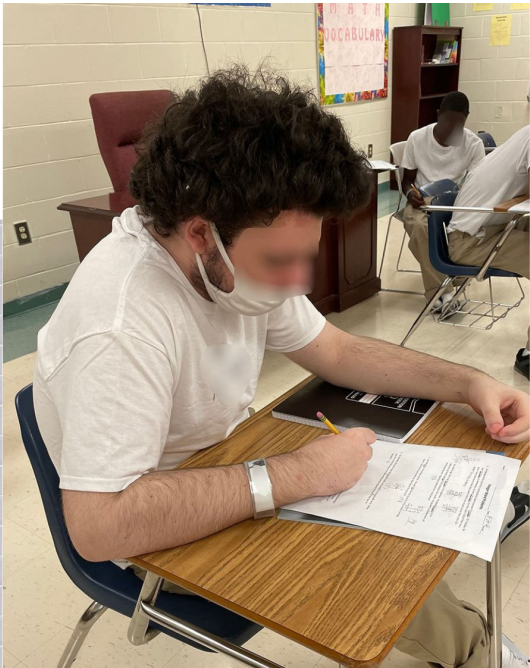
Recently, the Florence County DJJ office participated in the Mayor's Youth Initiative (MYI) Resource Information Event. This event was sponsored by the City of Florence and the goal is to have representatives from the committee meet with parents and youth to inform them about the various services available to them within the City. This event was a big success but most importantly, families left with a better understanding of the SC Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Mayor's Youth Initiative is a strategic partnership aimed at promoting the health, well-being, and success of the youth of Florence.



Back to School

In-person learning is back in full swing for youth at DJJ! Students, educators, and support staff and the Midlands Evaluation Center recently began the 2022-2023 school year, where success is the only option.



SCDJJ Back to School Bashes

Earlier this month, the York County DJJ office held a Back to School Bookbag Bash! The office gave away bookbags and supplies for students, and even had a little something for parents as well. Not to mention some hot dogs and chips to eat.



Fairfield County Sheriff's Department and other community agencies took part in their Back-to-School Bash. Lydia Young from the Fairfield County DJJ office participated, promoting the agency with various items and information for the community.



30th Anniversary of Project Life

On August 26, SCDJJ's Community Services Division celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Project Life: Positeen in Orangeburg, S.C.

Under the direction of founder and Program Director, Dr. Liz Zimmerman Keitt, the program has provided services to thousands of youth. It is the program's mission to provide a diverse afterschool program to the youth in the community who needs remediation and enrichment to improve their academic performance.

Their services include tutorial service, character building and cultural exposure. Teen Afterschool Centers are an important element in the delinquency prevention efforts because the hours between the end of the school day and when parents return from work is a risky time for young people. Research has shown that it is during these times when serious and violent crimes tend to be committed by youth.

The event was attended by hundreds of community supporters and SCDJJ staff. Tiffany Howard, DJJ's Statewide Prevention and Intervention Coordinator and Bobby Black, Low Country Prevention and Intervention Specialist were both presenters at the celebratory event.



MEC Morale Committee

Recently, the MEC Morale Committee held a cookout with food, fellowship, and fun for all at the facility!



SCDJJ Education Division Tribute

The SCDJJ Education Division gave tribute to the many “behind-the-scenes” employees who worked tirelessly to make the Education office moves from Central Office to BRRC a great success!

“We honor you and appreciate you and all that you do daily to help us and by helping us, to serve the youth in our care. What you do matters. More importantly, you matter. On behalf of those of us in Education who moved, thank you.”



Team SCDJJ Reflections

As we reflect on the word “team” and its interworking parts, make it personal. Consider how you can consistently impact the youth we serve, help a team member who may need support (without them having to ask), or present an innovative idea that drives toward the SCDJJ Mission and upholds our Vision.



IT COULDN'T BE DONE

Somebody said that it couldn't be done
But he with a chuckle replied
That “maybe it couldn't,” but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it!
Somebody scoffed: “Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it;”
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.
There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That “cannot be done,” and you'll do it.

BY EDGAR ALBERT GUEST



Mission, Vision, & Values



MISSION

To impact and transform young lives, strengthen families, and support safer communities through targeted prevention and rehabilitation.

VISION

Youth discover their strengths and abilities and become productive and successful citizens contributing to a safer South Carolina.

VALUES

Integrity—We are honest and transparent in our work and we are accountable for what we do and say.

Loyalty—We are all DJJ: Loyalty is our commitment to the youth and the agency at which we work.

Diversity—Each employee brings a viewpoint and can make a difference; working together, we can all make change.

Respect—There is always 'respect' built in every interaction with youth, their families, the public and between employees.

Compassion—Belief in our youth means showing them care and genuine concern every day.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED

